



## MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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### MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM:  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Officer

DATE: April 5, 2006

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VIII : Consideration of resolution authorizing entering into a Project Agreement with the County of Los Angeles Regional Park and Open Space District to use 1st Supervisorial District Proposition A Excess Funds for the Boyle Heights Green Corridors project.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing entering into a Project Agreement with the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District to use up to \$250,000 of Proposition A Excess Funds for the Boyle Heights Green Corridors project.

Background: The Boyle Heights Green Corridors project is a collaborative effort to bring recreational improvements and native ecology to the densely populated Boyle Heights neighborhood. A series of improvement projects is contemplated, ranging from street greening, parks, stormwater management, and installation of recreational park amenities.

The first proposed Green Corridors project is located on City of Los Angeles right-of-way on Sixth Street. The project will transform the neglected right-of-way area associated with the Blueberry Hill stairs into a park and usable space. This includes the development of a vista point near the top of the stairs, with the installation of an interpretive panel, benches, a drinking fountain and native plants. The vacant lot adjacent to the stairs will be converted into a public park featuring storm water management BMPs. Park amenities will include walking paths, benches and interpretive wayside displays. The park and the slope adjacent to the Blueberry Hills Stairway will be planted with native vegetation attracting birds and butterflies. Additionally, the stairway and lower retaining wall could provide opportunities for school art, area enhancement, and exercise.

The Sixth Street Park was initiated and driven by a group of teachers and students from Hollenbeck Middle School. This project will not only enhance the area but will also provide educational opportunities focusing on health and fitness issues explored by the students of the school.

The MRCA will use the Proposition A funds for the design and construction of the project and project management. The work funded by this grant for will include demolition and site preparation, site development, utilities, landscaping and irrigation, retaining walls, and installation of park amenities.

Supervisory District One Big Five Excess Funds can only be spent in District One. Expenditure of the subject sub-account of excess funds requires consensus between the MRCA and the subject Supervisor and subsequently Board of Supervisors approval. The use of these funds has not been approved yet by the First District Supervisor.